

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 (ISO) R

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:JSULLIVAN:TK

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081205

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 081205 ACTION SAN JOSE, BOGOTA,
GUATEMALA, PANAMA, QUITO, TEGUCIGALPA, MANAGUA, 22 APRIL
1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081205

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EIND, CS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FONMINS OF BANANA PRODUCING
COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 78728

1. THERE FOLLOWS SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER
AND FONMINS OF ADDRESSEES (EXCEPT GUATEMALA) AT WASHINGTON MFM.
ALSO PRESENT WERE ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH, SENATOR JAVITS,
LEGAL ADVISER MAW, DAVID LAZAR, WASHINGTON AMBASSADORS FROM
GUATEMAL AND HONDURAS, AND MINISTERS SILVA OF COSTA RICA AND
MANFREDO OF PANAMA.

2. COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT POSITION
ON BANANAS IS NOT ONE OF CONFRONTATION, BUT OF ECONOMIC
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NECESSITY SINCE PRICE OF BANANAS HAD NOT CHANGED IN 20 YEARS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES WITH ENDORSEMENT OF ALL LA FONMINS HAD AGREED THAT THE CABLE FROM MR. FIELD OF ILA TO PRESIDENT FIGUERES (SEE REFTEL) CONTRADICTED THE SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO. HE DID POINT OUT THAT THE FONMINS DID NOT FEEL THAT THE USG WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIELD CABLE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO MR. FIELD'S CABLE, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE DO NOT APPROVE OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TAKING GOVERNMENTAL-TYPE ACTIONS. SECRETARY KISSINGER REAFFIRMED THAT U.S. IS WILLING TO DISCUSS THE PRICE OF COMMODITIES, BUT THAT IF THE COMMODITY-PRODUCING NATIONS CONTINUE TO FORM CARTELS UNILATERALLY, THIS WILL PRODUCE A REACTION WITHIN IMPORTAING NATIONS WHICH WILL LEAD TO CONFRONTATION. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH FONMINS ON BANANA PRICES, AND SUGGESTED THAT A MECHANISM BE FOUND TO DISCUSS THIS SORT OF PROBLEM WHILE AVOIDING INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY CARTELS.

4. SENATOR JAVITS POINTED OUT THAT ILA HAS ATTEMPTED SIMILAR BOYCOTT ACTIONS IN THE PAST, BUT THIS IS AN ACTION OF PRIVATE GROUP WHICH DOES NOT REPRESENT USG POLICY.

5. MINISTER MANFREDO INTERJECTED THAT PURPOSE WAS NOT TO RAISE PRICES, BUT TO RATIONALIZE CHAOTIC PRODUCTION. HE SAID TAX WAS NEEDED TO HELP DIVERSIFY PRODUCTION.

6. THE SECRETARY AGAIN STATED THAT WE ARE WILLING TO SEEK A MACHANISM TO DISCUSS ISSUES SUCH AS THE BANANA PROBLEM. FACIO SAID HAT THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO RESPOND PUBLICLY TO THE FIELD CABLE.

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE081205
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSULLIVAN:TK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740419/aaaaaqxm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FONMINS OF BANANA PRODUCING COUNTRIES
TAGS: EIND, CS
To: BRASILIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005